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**Committee on Regulatory Reform
c/o Eric Esch, Clerk
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514**

**Chairperson Farrah, Vice-Chair Cook Scott, Vice-Chair Marleau,
Committee Members,**

I submit this testimony to the Committee in support of HB 4265, concerning the Michigan Progressive Games. I first would like to thank you for the recent addition by the Legislature of a Statewide Progressive game, and especially the increase in the overall prize limit to \$3500.00.

It is my belief that the adjustment to this game that HB 4265 provides will benefit all bingo programs throughout our State. As you are all aware, the bingo games which provide much needed non-profit funded programs, have diminished in our State. This has been due to the competition of casino's, border States such as Ohio, and even the bordering Province's of Canada.

Our organization, the RHS Alumni Football Club is a 501C3 organization created in 1972, that provides much of the financing for the football program at our public, Theodore Roosevelt High School . We also provide a first year scholarship for any player who wishes to pursue further education. This includes college or training opportunities. By providing this help to the football program, we have allowed our school system to free up many funds needed for the much expanded sports participation in the public school systems.

The Legislature and the Charitable Gaming Staff have provided another opportunity to enhance our bingo program and create added participation and excitement for our players through the statewide

progressive. Yet, in so allowing the additions to our program, a limitation was put on our bingo's where we had to choose between a "local" progressive game or the statewide progressive game. HB 4265 would adjust the law to allow for both games.

The local progressive game provides a lower odds jackpot that usually goes to around \$1800.00 (+ -). When the player competes for this "local" progressive game, they compete only between those who are in the hall at that time, thus allowing for lower odds of winning. Our bingo's see a steady increase in attendance and participation by players as our jackpots rise. The statewide progressive will have a much higher odds ratio of winning the jackpot due to the sheer amount of players involved. A player may never see a statewide jackpot winner in person.

By allowing both games we will provide a much more enhanced opportunity for the player to participate and win large jackpots. If the player does not come close to the statewide jackpot, they will have another chance during the local progressive game. This will also allow our bingo's to condense the program and increase the payouts on other games allowing in our case for the Mother or Father to be home from our morning bingo session in ample time for the release from School of their children.

I thank the Committee for considering this change and ask that you support this additional language allowing both games. It is my hope that the House Committee of the Whole will also support this change and forward to the Senate and Governor for implementation. Once again, Thank You all for your support of our States bingo's.

Respectfully,



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